



H1N1 Provider Briefing

Date: January 6, 2010
To: All Healthcare Providers
From: Director of Health, David R. Gifford, MD, MPH
Re: Information on H1N1 in Rhode Island

Local Influenza Activity Level: Local¹; H1N1 predominant circulating strain

Rhode Island²: 360 hospitalized cases, 9 deaths

Sentinel Surveillance (% of visits due to influenza-like illness)³: Rhode Island: 0.98%, New England Region: 1.1%, Nation: 2.97%

Healthcare Service Region POD clinic details

Rhode Island's Healthcare Service Regions (HSRs) announced the times and locations of their H1N1 flu vaccine point-of-dispensing (POD) clinics last week. Healthcare workers and first responders throughout the state can receive H1N1 flu vaccine on January 9, 2010 at their HSRs' POD clinics. For the times and locations of these POD clinics, as well as information about identification and any insurance materials that individuals must bring, see <http://www.health.ri.gov/news/H1N1Advisories/HSRFluVaccinationClinics.pdf>.

All healthcare workers and first responders must sign consent forms to be vaccinated. Consent forms can be found at <http://www.health.ri.gov/facilities/hospitals/about/serviceregions/index.php>.

Some HSRs' lead hospitals have established **H1N1 Flu Vaccination Information Lines**. Healthcare workers and first responders seeking more information about the H1N1 flu vaccination strategy in their HSRs can find these Information Lines at <http://www.health.ri.gov/facilities/hospitals/about/serviceregions/index.php>.

Kent Hospital H1N1 flu vaccination clinics for healthcare workers

Healthcare workers and first responders who work in Kent Hospital's HSR (Coventry, West Warwick, Warwick, West Greenwich, and East Greenwich) but not at Kent Hospital can receive H1N1 flu vaccine at two clinics this week, in addition to the HSR POD clinic scheduled for January 9. The clinics will run in the hospital's Doctors' Auditorium (to the left of the main entrance on the first floor) on **January 6 from 2 p.m. until 7:30 p.m.** and on **January 7 from 4:30 p.m. until 8 p.m.**

HEALTH's Flu Vaccine Locator

Many of the Rhode Island pharmacies and other public venues (e.g. retail stores and walk-in clinics) offering H1N1 flu vaccine are now registered in the **Flu Vaccine Locator** on HEALTH's website (www.health.ri.gov). Individuals who enter their zip codes into the Flu Vaccine Locator will be able to view a list of nearby pharmacies with H1N1 flu vaccine and a map indicating their locations. Providers should advise their patients that pharmacies are only vaccinating individuals who are 18 years of age and older.

Please note that not all H1N1 flu vaccine providers have registered yet in this new system. HEALTH will continue to update the Flu Vaccine Locator system to include public H1N1 flu vaccination clinics and asks providers who are planning public clinics to register and to update their information as well (see below for additional information).

¹ Rhode Island reported local activity for the week of December 27, 2009 to January 2, 2010. One region reports elevated influenza-like illness. For details see <http://www.health.ri.gov/flu/about/surveillance/>.

² Confirmed and probable H1N1 hospitalizations and deaths since September 1, 2009

³ Influenza-like illness activity reported by 19 sentinel surveillance sites from December 20 to December 26, 2009

Registering with HEALTH's Flu Vaccine Locator

Healthcare providers who are interested in holding public clinics for H1N1 flu vaccine can register their information in HEALTH's online H1N1 Flu Vaccine Locator. To register, see www.health.ri.gov/flu/about/newclinicregistration/. Send updated information about already-registered clinics to john.cucco@health.ri.gov. Healthcare providers should note that only information about **public clinics** will be displayed in HEALTH's Flu Vaccine Locator.

Nursing home conference call scheduled for January 7

HEALTH will hold a conference call with Rhode Island nursing home administrators on January 7, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. Issues to be discussed include HEALTH's H1N1 flu vaccine distribution plan for nursing homes and nursing homes' responsibility to report doses of vaccine that they administer. To participate in the call, dial 1-888-757-2748 just before 10:00 a.m. The passcode will be 492229. For more information, nursing home staff members should email Virginia.Paine@health.ri.gov.

School-based clinics for second doses of H1N1 vaccine

This week, HEALTH released the schedule for school-based clinics for second doses of H1N1 flu vaccine. Clinics will begin on January 11, 2010. The schedule for the second round of school-based H1N1 clinics is available at <http://www.health.ri.gov/flu/about/schoolh1n1clinics/index.php>. Providers should direct school-aged children who were **younger than 10 years of age** at the time of their schools' first H1N1 flu vaccination clinics back to their schools for second doses of vaccine. However, providers should administer second doses of H1N1 vaccine to children who are older than 6 months of age but who are not yet in kindergarten or who attend kindergarten in pre-school or private settings. Providers are welcome to administer second doses to higher-risk children in their offices according to their clinical judgment.

National webcast on school-based clinics features Director Lawrence of the Rhode Island MRC

Flu.gov hosted a webcast today, January 6, 2010, on the national impact of school-based vaccination clinics and the importance of vaccination. The webcast featured special guest Tom Lawrence, NREMT-P, Head of the Rhode Island Medical Reserve Corps. Flu.gov's series of Know What to Do About the Flu webcasts are archived and available for viewing at <http://www.flu.gov/news/nowhattodo.html>.

Volunteers needed for public H1N1 vaccination clinics (municipal PODs)

HEALTH will release a schedule this week for free, public H1N1 vaccination clinics hosted by Rhode Island municipalities. Beginning on January 16, 2010, approximately 28 single-date clinics will run at locations throughout Rhode Island over a four-week period. The schedule will include daytime and evening clinics and weekday and weekend clinics. Vaccine will only be available to those who are 18 years of age and older. Individuals will not have to present identification at the clinics and can attend any clinic, regardless of where they live.

HEALTH is seeking the assistance of volunteer providers and pharmacists at these clinics. Licensed healthcare providers and pharmacists interested in volunteering should contact Amy Grzybowski at the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency. She can be reached at (401) 462-7335 or amy.grzybowski@us.army.mil.

Resources

- HEALTH at <http://www.health.ri.gov>;
- Archived provider briefings and regular news updates: <http://www.health.ri.gov/news/flu/>
- H1N1 Information Line (M-F 8:30am- 4:30pm) 401-222-8022
- H1N1 email address h1n1@health.ri.gov
- <http://www.flu.gov>